

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02009 160735Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 /053 W

-----003193 161310Z /23

R 160515Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USLO RIYADH

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTRA, BBAK, OCON, SA

SUBJ: ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE VISIT TO U.S.: APRIL 1978

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH SHEIKH SALEH TOAMI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE RIYADH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE STATED THAT THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO ASSEMBLE IN AMMAN FOR THE ONWARD JOURNEY TO U.S. BUT ADVISED US THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO GROUP TRAVEL, ESPECIALLY NOW, FOR SECURITY REASONS AND IS INFORMING AMMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS OF HIS OBJECTIONS.

2. TOAMI ALSO STATED THAT SEVERAL OF THE MORE RADICAL STATES' CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE SUCH AS IRAQ AND LIBYA WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION. HE

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CONFIDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED AT THIS DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE LESS LIKELIHOOD OF SHARP CONFRONTATIONS WITH AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

3. IN REPLY TO TOAMI'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON THE TRIP WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, EMBASSY OFFICERS TOLD HIM THAT NO U.S. BUSINESSMAN OR AUDIENCE WOULD

TOLERATE CRITICISM OF OUR LAWS BY A FOREIGN GROUP AND THAT THE MISSION WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL FOR ALL CONCERNED IF THE ARAB DELEGATES PRESENTED THE EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR EXPORTS AND SERVICES TO THE AREA. TOAMI IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THIS APPROACH.

4. TOAMI FELT THAT THE TWO OR POSSIBLY THREE WEEKS IN THE U.S. IS TOO LONG AND ASKED IF USDOC OR STATE COULD CHECK WITH C. RIDDICK LAWRENCE OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE U.S. ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND PROVIDE SOME IDEA OF THE SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY PLANNED FOR THE GROUP. HE FELT THAT 60 OR MORE MEMBERS WOULD BE TOO LARGE A GROUP TO HANDLE AND SUGGESTS THAT THEY BE SPLIT UP INTO GROUPS OF 10 OR 12 AND VISIT DIFFERENT CITIES AT THE SAME TIME TO CUT DOWN THE LENGTH OF STAY.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING THAT USDOC OR THE DEPARTMENT CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THE U.S. SCHEDULE SO THAT THE RIYADH AND JIDDA CHAMBERS CAN BE INFORMED.

WILEY

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